



## Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

### News Release

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2012

### New Program Provides Job Training for Older Unemployed Veterans

MONTGOMERY – Beginning today, older unemployed veterans may sign up for a new job training program called Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), which is designed to provide training and education that will lead to high-demand jobs. VRAP was established as part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, which was signed by the President on November 21, 2011.

Veterans may apply for this program if they:

- Are unemployed
- Are between the ages of 35-60
- Did not receive a dishonorable discharge
- Are not eligible for any other VA education program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Are not receiving VA disability compensation because they cannot work (unemployability)
- Are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

VRAP will offer up to 12 months of training assistance at the rate of the Montgomery GI Bill payment, which is currently at \$1473 a month. Participants must enroll in VA approved education programs at community colleges and technical schools that lead to an associate's degree, non-college degree, or a certificate that will lead to employment.

There are limited spaces in the program. Those interested in applying can do so online at <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm> or by visiting a local Career Center. A listing of Career Centers can be found at [www.joblink.alabama.gov](http://www.joblink.alabama.gov).

It is estimated that there are 11,000 unemployed veterans in Alabama.

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*Members of the media needing more information should contact Public Information Manager Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.*